mainly lies in 3200 km stretch of rivers and canals, 2.79 lakh ha. area of reservoirs, 32000 ha. area under tanks and ponds. In Assam, the potential lies in 4 820 km. stretch of rivers and canals, 110,000 ha. of flood-plain lakes, 55.000 ha. area under reservoirs and 21,000 ha. area under tanks and ponds. The annual production potential from these resources depends on the fishing efforts, technology, craft, gear, etc. deployed in harnessing these capture and culture fishery resources.

(d) The Government have been operating a number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to exploit the resources to the maximum possible level. In Assam the major schemes in operation are:

(i) Freshwater aquaculture.

(ii) Assistance for strengthing fish marketing.

In Maharashtra, in addition to the above schemes, the following are also being implemented;

(i) Fishery harbour facilities at major ports.

(ii) Providing fishery harbour/landing centre facilities at minor ports.

(iii) Integrated brackishwater fish farm development.

(iv) Development of coastal marine fisheries

(a) Motorisation of traditional craft.

(b) Reimbursement of excise duty on HSD Oil.

Proposal for expension of Muraina and Chindwara Plant

1702. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2463 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has since recommended proposals for the expansion of the Muraina plant and Chindwara plant of the Cooperative Oil Seeds Association of the National Cooperative Development Corporation for approval;

(b) if so, what is the cost thereof and when the same were revived; and

(c) whether the National Cooperative Development Corporation has taken any action on these proposals; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Madhya Pradesh Government have not made any change in the earlier proposals for expansion of Muraina and Chindwara plants of MP State Oilseed Growers' Federation (MPOILFED) after August, 1994. Muraina expansion project with a cost of Rs. 30.58 crore was recommended by the State Government to National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) on 7.4.94. It was appraised by NCDC in September, 1994. In view of the non-satisfactory functioning of the unit and the heavy losses incurred by MPOILFED, the National Cooperative Development Corporation had suggested to the State Government that the MPOILFED might improve the capacity utilisation and consolidation of its financial position before the proposal could be considered.

As regard Chindwara project, the same was submitted by the State Government to NCDC on 9.2.93 with a cost of Rs. 28.25 crore. The appraisal of the project was deferred by NCDC till the unit stabilised in operations. In the meantime, the MPOILFED pruned the project cost to Rs. 9.54 crore and the revised proposal was submitted by the MPOILFED to NCDC in December, 93. However, this has not been recommended by the State Government so far.

Production of High Quality Potatoes

1703. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether potato marketing company of Netherlands known as 'Agrico' has offered to introduce high quality potatoes in India:

(b) if so, the details thereof with terms of such offer;

(c) whether this offer will benefit the country in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to have plantation of potatoes of high quality in the country in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) M|s. Quality Tea Plantation Ltd., Calcutta has finalised plans to have M|s. Agrico BV of Netherlands as a joint venture partner for setting up of a potato processing complex in West Bengal for production of quality potato seed for processing, export etc. The joint venture Company is expected to produce different potato products and utilise nearly 60,000 tonnes of raw potato annually.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The processing complex once established will help in utilising potato during glut season, saving enormous post harvest losses and ensure better returns to the farmers and higher production of potato.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Indian varieties are as good as any other variety in the world and are being used in the potato growing areas regularly. In addition, a few improved hybrids are currently in pipeline undergoing testing for release.

Strawberry Cultivation

1704. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area under Strawberry cultivation in Maharashtra as on 1st March 1995;

(b) what is the total annual production of strawberry in Maharashtra;

(c) what is the average price realised during the year for strawberry;

(d) what is the demand for strawberry outside the country; and

(e) whether it will be beneficial for farmers to grow more strawberry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (e) As per informations received from Directorate of Horticulture, Govrenment of Maharashtra; the area under strawberry is approximately 1,000 hectares and the production of strawberry in 1994-95 is aronud 20,000 M. tonnes. The average price realised during the year is approximately Rs. 60|- per Kg. The demand for strawberry outside the country is approximately 50,000 M. tonnes.

Since the fruit is extremely perishable in nature and there is involvement of very high cost of cultivation, the area expansion has to be done cautiously keeping in view the export and processing potential as well as development of domestic market.

Incentives to promote Agro-based and Horticulture Projects

1705. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Haryana has formulated Plants for providing comprehensive package of incentives for promoting Agro-based and horticulture projects for export purposes;

(b) whether Government propose to ask Government of Andhra Pradesh to formulate similar plants in future; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.